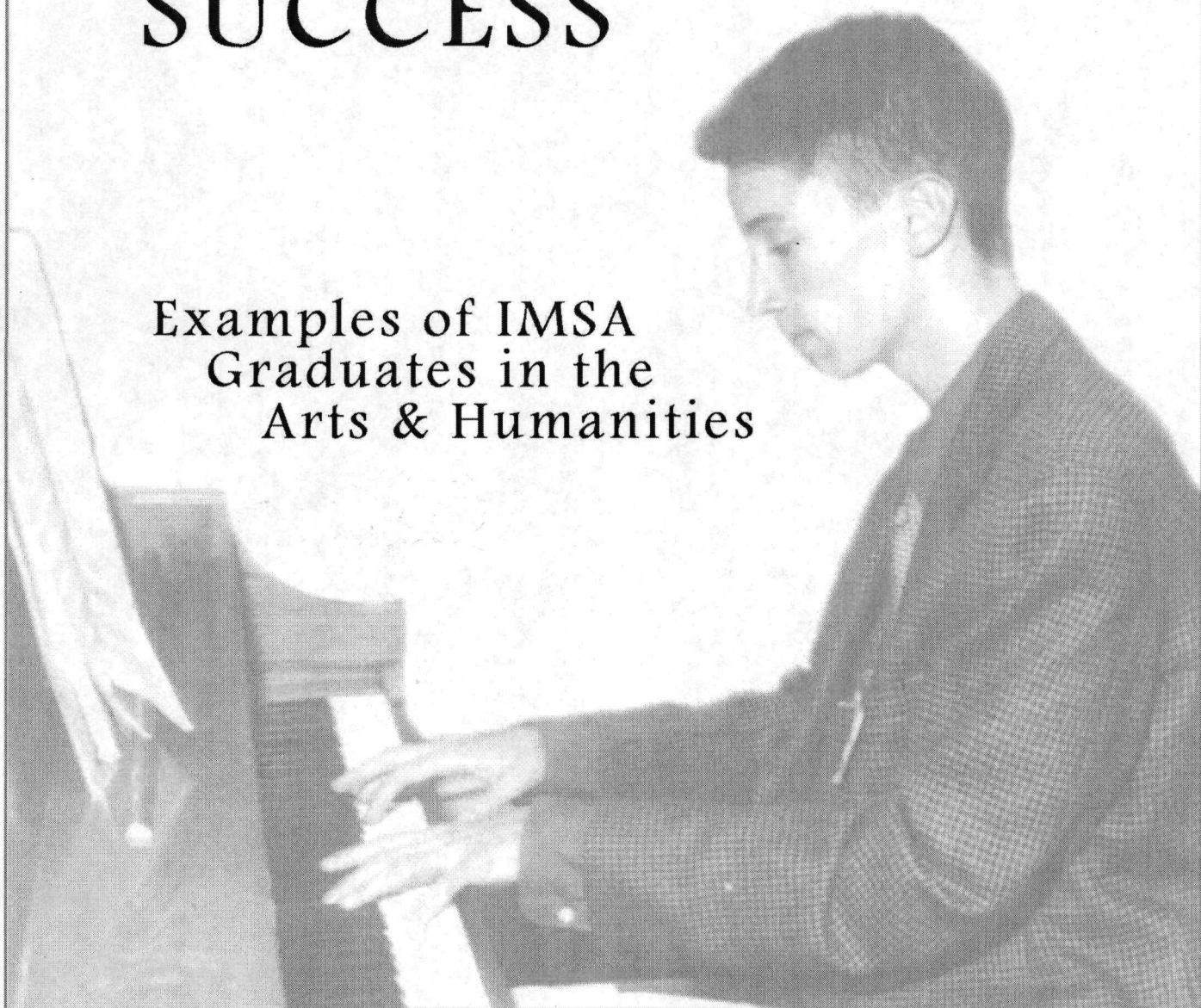


**Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy**

*A Pioneering Educational Community*

# SNAPSHOTS OF SUCCESS

Examples of IMSA  
Graduates in the  
Arts & Humanities



## *1999 Snapshots & Vignettes of IMSA Alumni in the Arts and Humanities*

We are very proud of the arts and humanities programs at IMSA. Our faculty and students have distinguished themselves in countless ways and in our Longitudinal Study of IMSA graduates, our alumni often cite arts and humanities learning experiences as among their most valuable and cherished experiences at IMSA.

From IMSA's perspective, the arts and humanities serve as a unique structure for the integration of knowledge among disciplines and provide students with a set of cultural and ethical perspectives that frame understanding of mathematics and science. We believe that the integration of disciplines, if done so in a meaningful and relevant way, offers the "best shot" at transforming mathematics and science teaching and learning. Therefore, a strong humanities and arts program is vital to the achievement of our mission.

As a result of IMSA's integrative educational approach, alumni are combining humanities, arts, and sciences in fields such as web design, law, music and business. The rigorous research skills and habits of mind learned at IMSA form strong preparation for excellence in future endeavors.

While a complete record of the awards and achievements of graduates of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy is not possible, those recorded here provide a glimpse into the potential unfolding in the lives of a sampling of IMSA's graduates. We seek not to take credit, but to marvel at the goodness and genius within all children and to assume our responsibility for nurturing and liberating it.

The collection of alumni information for this booklet was a collaboration of the following offices: the IMSA Archives, the Office of Research and Evaluation, and the Office of Institutional Advancement and Public Policy. This booklet was compiled from the results of the IMSA Alumni Survey and other records in the Alumni Office, personal communications, phone interviews, and records in the IMSA Archives.

The snapshots are a glimpse of some accomplishments to dates. The vignettes offer a more in-depth look at several alumni.

## VIGNETTES

### *Marcie Edwards Hawkins '89*

Marcie earned her Juris Doctor from the Ohio State University College of Law, and was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1998. She was awarded her BA in Finance from the University of Illinois. Marcie was a President's Award Scholarship recipient, and participated in the Summer Research Opportunities Program. She studied at Oxford University's Summer Program and has traveled to Japan.

Active with her service sorority of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., founded in 1913 at Howard University, she was awarded the Outstanding Public Service Award. for projects in aid of battered women, safety, and Voters Registration drives.

In her 1999 Convocation address, Marcie cited Mr. Michael Sloan's trips to the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Ontario, as a highlight of her IMSA experience.

Marcie was part of Harvard Model Congress and Amnesty International, and served on Student Council. Marcie came to IMSA from Chicago. She is married to Kevin Hawkins, a Mechanical Engineer at Honda. They live in Ohio.

### *Michael Hancock '89*

Michael is writing "Boffin's Books and Darwin's Finches--Collecting, Collectors and Collections in Victorian Literature," his dissertation at the University of Kansas, relating natural history collecting to gender, class and politics. "The Victorians' concerns are our concerns still and I find links to the sciences very relevant," says Michael.

"My years at IMSA have really encouraged me to think about how science has relevance to the things I'm looking at, especially now in Kansas, with the Board of Education de-emphasizing evolution." Anticipating his Ph.D. in 2000, Michael plans to teach English at college level. Mike earned his B.A. in English from Notre Dame and his MA from Kansas State University.

Glad he had the early influence and encouragement of the English teachers at IMSA, he also learned here to think in interdisciplinary ways. Cultural studies in English also finds links to the sciences. His independent study under Mr. Patrick McWilliams, "Baseball and its Place in the American Psyche" is one of his best memories. Michael wrote for the literary magazine at IMSA and came here from Rochelle.



### *Susan Heersema '93*

Susan is an architect for Solomon Cordwell Buenz & Associates in Chicago. Her projects are mostly high-rise residential apartments. Her future plans include work on other types of architecture and consulting. Her current avocation is rehabilitating a condominium she bought in Chicago, learning more about older architecture.

She received her Bachelor of Architecture at the University of Kansas at Lawrence in 1998, and won several scholarships. She graduated with distinction and completed the Honors program.

At IMSA, Susan enjoyed her English classes, especially Utopia. She would have enjoyed having more arts and humanities classes. "Architecture is half math and half art." Susan played soccer and was active in Drama and Spanish Club, coming to IMSA from Crete.

### *Monica Jain '93*

Monica is working toward her degree in South Asian Civilization and Languages at the University of Chicago. She also works for the University doing graphic design of web pages and technical support. She took two years off to work at the Art Institute of Chicago in technical support and human resources.

"I always found my English courses interesting, liked the teachers; definitely coming to college, the way they taught us to critically examine a work was very valuable. Being able to write a paper well is really important." She also became familiar with the University of Chicago through her Mentorship in Anatomy with Prof. Michael Labarbra.

Monica has done extensive community volunteering with Apna Ghar, a shelter for South Asian Women, and on campus as coordinator for the Sexual Violence Prevention Resource Center, and with Public Allies, an AmeriCorps program. She has "always been fascinated by social services and volunteering and felt really connected. I try to make a difference in one way or another. Definitely my community service grew from my community service requirement at IMSA. "It really opened my eyes to all the opportunities out there. Community service makes you feel good as well as the other people."

Monica is living in Chicago now and came to IMSA from Schaumburg.

## *John Turlais '92*

In April of 1992, John Turlais accepted an invitation to attend Harvard University. Two months later, he became the 10th round draft selection of the Pittsburgh Pirates professional baseball team. John attended Harvard in the fall and played baseball in the spring.

After retiring from baseball in 1997, John began developing his vision for ProjectLearn through an independent study at Harvard, focusing on better strategies for study and learning. His business plan was later published in *The Harvard Entrepreneur's Guide to Starting Your Own Small Business*, which received one of USA Today's commendations as one of the best small business books of 1999.

At Harvard, John was awarded the Major League Baseball Scholarship, John Harvard Scholarship for Highest Academic Achievement, and the Mark DeWolfe Howe Civil Rights Award. In addition his senior honors thesis, he was awarded the James Gordon Bennett Prize for Best Political Science Writing by a Harvard Undergraduate. John graduated magna cum laude with a degree in government. John says, "I don't know if I would have gone to Harvard or even had the interest to if I hadn't attended the Illinois Math and Science Academy, but I do know it is possible to pursue your dreams and realize them." Hailing from Flora, John played soccer and basketball at IMSA.

## *Richard Lee '92*

Richard has joined John on the ProjectLearn Team. Richard graduated cum laude from Harvard with a joint degree in East Asian Studies and Economics. While at Harvard, Richard served as President of the Korean Students Association and director of KASCON (Korean American Student Conference).

Richard took several years' leave of absence from Harvard to work as a financial analyst in the investment banking industry with KEB Smith Barney Securities and Jardine Fleming Securities. He served as Head Speechwriter for the Minister of Finance and Economy of the Republic of Korea. Since graduation, Richard has worked as a financial analyst for Compass Partners Investing and as an investment analyst of Investments, Inc.

Richard was active in baseball, basketball and Student Council, and did a project on the Chicago Freedom Movement for Metro History Fair. He is from Des Plaines.

### *Stephanie Jayne '90*

"I'm happy and healthy and I live in a hut with no water or electricity but I have elephants in my front yard. What more could I ask for?" wrote Stephanie during four years in Malawi in the African bush as a Peace Corps volunteer.

After graduating from the University of North Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology in 1995, she joined the Peace Corps. She returned from Malawi in June 1999 and now works in community development in Berkeley, CA, coordinating planning to implement a "Healthy Start" program for children.

At IMSA, Stephanie played soccer with the boys' team, since there was no girls team, was Student Council Vice President, and active in S.A.D.D. She came to IMSA from Waukegan.

### *Tricia Sabathne '92*

Tricia works as a speech and language pathologist for Barrington C.U.S.D. 200, in primary education. Her work combines child development, language development, and therapy. She graduated from Northern Illinois University with an MA in Communication Disorders in 1998, winning the Fisher Award for departmental excellence for clinical service and academics. Her BA is also from N.I.U. in Communication Disorders.

"I loved my humanities classes at IMSA and that's really what got me interested in the liberal arts, which comes in very handy working in the education field now. IMSA community service was how I got into the speech field, coaching Special Olympics." Consequently she became involved in Special Education and switched over to the speech therapy side.

"Particular assignments and papers at IMSA were so much more enjoyable than in my previous education. Tricia came to IMSA from Algonquin and participated in sports, Student Council, and Class Club.



### *Elizabeth Chilton Krasovec '92*

Liz graduated in English from Carleton College, Northfield, MN, in 1996. She spent the summer after college doing summer stock theater. She went into publishing in New York to work for the Feminist Press, and moved on to a telecommunications magazine, Teleconnect. "Then I got engaged to Neil and moved back to Chicago to do programming. I just got a new job as management consultant for Bricker and Associates for high-level problem-solving. I loved IMSA and college and Bricker is a place where I'm stretching myself all the time. Living in New York was a good experience for me--a lot of life experience and good first job experience."

"I can't give enough credit to IMSA; IMSA set the foundation for the way I think for the rest of my life. The integration of arts and humanities, the importance of community, the necessity of respecting each individual, and problem solving in a more formal way." Liz worked on the literary magazine and Drama Club at IMSA and came here from Joliet. Liz recently accepted the position of the new alumnus (alumna) liaison to the Board.

### *Neil Krasovec '92*

Liz married Neil Krasovec '92 in August 1999. Neil earned a BA. in History at the University of Illinois in 1997. His work as a computer consultant for NovaNET in Chicago gives him the opportunity to travel around the country. He has been working for NovaNET since graduation, moving from systems operator to help desk to installation. He now sets up networks in laboratory sites and maintains them.

Neil spent a summer in Quebec learning French at Universite Laval. His history major at college was partly inspired by teaching at IMSA. Neil really enjoyed his IMSA Ceramics class with Mr. Clay Sewall and made ceramic gifts for all his family.

Neil also is active in keeping up with IMSA alumni. He came to IMSA from Chicago. His IMSA Chess team experience led him to continue playing with the Oak Park-River Forest Chess Club.

### *Sindhu Revuluri '96*

Sindhu is majoring in Musicology at Smith College. "I was really involved in the Music Department at IMSA. I was a singer since age two. My classroom experiences were fine but what really made the difference were my independent studies with Mrs. Dalia Bach in conducting. The faculty in that department were able to give their students a lot of personal attention." She was also doing some outside work singing while at IMSA.

Sindhu is working in musicology. She says IMSA training shows here: the motivation for independent thought within a field and to do scientific-style research in a humanities field. She has applied for a Fulbright Scholarship to go to Paris to compile a catalog of the works of Gabriel Faure. She will write her undergraduate thesis on his piano works.

Two summers ago, Sindhu spent ten weeks doing data-gathering research in rural Ghana on native drumming styles, and then held workshops and presented a conference paper.

She is now a Student Fellow in the Kahn Institute at Smith, which focuses on interdisciplinary problems. She is researching on this year's theme, "Star Messenger: Galileo at the Millennium," on the connections between Renaissance music and the twentieth century. Still involved in student government at Smith, Sindhu was President of Student Council at IMSA, in IMSA's tradition of fostering leadership skills. She came from Palatine.



## SNAPSHOTS

**Thandeka Chapman '89**, from Aurora, is pursuing her Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She majored in English at Spelman College and taught freshman English in the Rockford Public Schools. She also coaches girls basketball.

**Deborah O'Fallon '89**, from Naperville, is a Consultant for Princeton Economic Research in Washington, D.C. She actively volunteers for several organizations, including the National Foundation for Women Legislators.

**Erin Roche '89**, from Elgin, is teaching Spanish in the Chicago Public Schools. He majored in mathematics and elementary education at Knox College and won a Fulbright Summer Seminar Abroad in Mexico.

**Dion Steele '89**, from Markham, teaches religion and African-American history at Hales Franciscan High School. He earned an MA in Divinity and a BA in history at the University of Illinois.

**Terrence Free '90**, from University Park, consults for a health care company in Champaign, after five years in hotel and restaurant management, using his BA earned from the University of Illinois in 1995.

**Tanisha Mims '90**, from Cahokia, graduated in International Relations from Knox College in 1994. She works at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis in development and alumni relations.

**Debbie Bohm '91**, from Park Ridge, earned her MLIS in Library Science from 1996 Dominican University, after completing her BA with high honors in 1994 from Mt. Holyoke in Chemistry and History. She is working toward her Ph.D. in Modern European History at Pennsylvania State University and working as a Catalog and Reference Librarian at Bloomsburg State University.

**Cynthia Morales '92**, from St. Charles, won a Merit Scholarship at Tulane University's Law School and expects to graduate in 2000 with a JD. She earned a BS in Plant Biology from the University of Illinois in 1996.

**Amber Morgan '93**, from Naperville, graduated with a BA in Hotel & Restaurant Management from Johnson & Wales University. She works in hotel management for Bristol Hotel Co.

**Lucretia Pitts '93**, from Chicago, is in Law School at the University of Miami, having earned a BA in Political Science and English at Blackburn College in 1997.

**Jesse Hsu '93**, from Olympia Fields, graduated with a BA in East Asian Languages & Civilizations from the University of Chicago. He works as a business analyst at McKinsey & Co. in Chicago, and volunteers as a tutor at Crispus Attucks Academy.

**Kristina Cook '94**, from Vernon Hills, earned her MA in Music from the New England Conservatory and plans a career in opera. Her Bachelor's in Music Performance is from Texas Christian University. She was selected as a 1998 All-American Scholar.

**Eric Pierson '94**, from Macomb, graduated from the University of Illinois with a BS in Psychology and is pursuing a doctorate in School Psychology at Illinois State University.

**Michele Casey '95**, from Wheaton, graduated from Harvard in June '99, magna cum laude. She majored in English and Women's Studies. She is currently spending a year with Americorps Vista, the national program for volunteer service. She is in Urbana, Illinois, serving with Land of Lincoln Legal Services. They help the poor and the disadvantaged by providing economic and legal assistance.

**Neil Torbert '96**, from Nekoma, majoring in Psychology and Philosophy at Knox College, has been inducted into Mortar Board, a National Honor Society for college seniors.

**Eva Bach '96**, from St. Charles, is majoring in English at Hobart & William Smith Colleges. She graduates in 2000 and will then oversee a program called "First Year Seminar" in writing well in all disciplines. Undergraduates skilled in writing attend a class and meet weekly with each student to discuss their writing.

**Ross Cornell '98**, from Mt. Pulaski, is majoring in Dance at New York University. At IMSA, he planned and choreographed a complete show, "The Story of Ti Moune."

**Jeff Palenik '98**, from Elgin, is majoring in Music Performance at Notre Dame.

**Anna Feltovich '99**, from Springfield, is majoring in Classics at Grinnell College. At IMSA, she participated in the Ethics in Science and Humanities Project, and traveled to Jerusalem for the world conference in summer 1997.

**Drew Massey '99**, from DeKalb, is majoring in Music Performance at Indiana University.

**Gustavo Setrini '99**, from Morris, is majoring in Music at Lawrence University.